

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. In the Soviet Union, collective leadership is definitely out of the picture now. The reason for its existence was that no single individual was strong enough to become dictator. Now, without any doubt, N.S. Khrushchev is the most powerful man in the Soviet Union.

UNCODED. Bulganin
represents the political sector in the Army.

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comes from a bourgeois family, is an educated and well-informed man. He is not narrow-minded and certainly not a fanatic.

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2. A purge is probably already underway in the Soviet Union.

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However, it is believed that a purge will take place during the next few months and will involve a great number of persons. This purge will probably not be carried out in the open and there will be no sensational trials. Therefore, they will probably not become known until long after they have actually taken place.

3. There are certain similarities between Stalin's maneuverings in the 1920's and the events of the present day. In the 1920's Stalin overpowered the Trotskyite opposition but later adopted Trotsky's policies. There is a possibility that Khrushchev, having gained the upper hand, may now adopt

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the policies expounded by G.M. Malenkov. This is doubtful, however, and it appears that he will follow his own policies.

4. It is believed that MAO Tse-tung may play an important [redacted] role in the formulation of the foreign policies of the Soviet Union. A few months ago Khrushchev paid a visit to MAO. Of course, it is not known what they talked about and what agreements were made by them, but it was after that visit that Khrushchev started his campaign advocating a stress on heavy industry. It is significant that on this trip Khrushchev was accompanied by Bulganin. It is not likely that Khrushchev will follow a friendlier course in dealing with the West and it seems that there will be closer coordination of the foreign policies of the Soviet Union and Red China. 25X1
5. The events of the last few days were definitely caused by the struggle for power in the Kremlin and were not influenced by the potential rearmament of West Germany or the Formosan situation.
6. The significance of G.K. Zhukov's appointment as Minister of Defense cannot be evaluated at the present time. It would appear that the Army is supporting the change but it must be remembered that Zhukov, besides being a Marshal of the Soviet Union, is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

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